



## **New proposals for community and open narrowcasting radio in Central NSW**

CENTRAL NSW: The ABA is considering making available two new community radio licences for Orange, and a new open narrowcasting radio service for Cobar.

The ABA's preliminary view, released for public comment in January 1996, was to make one additional community radio service available in Orange.

'Following further consultation, the ABA now believes that two new community radio licences should be made available for allocation in Orange, rather than one,' said Mr Peter Webb, ABA Chairman.

The ABA proposes that the second new community radio service would broadcast on 103.5 MHz from Mt Canobolas, with a maximum effective radiated power of 5 kW.

'Canobolas Christian Broadcasters and Orange Community Broadcasters have conducted numerous community radio temporary transmissions in Orange and are interested in establishing a permanent service. Both The Music Broadcasting Society of NSW Co-operative Limited (2MBS) and Radio for the Print Handicapped (RPH) are also interested in establishing a permanent community radio service in Orange,' said Mr Webb.

In Cobar, the ABA proposes to make an open narrowcasting radio licence available to broadcast on 104.5 MHz, with a maximum effective radiated power of 100 W.

'This licence was not planned in the 1996 draft licence area plan, but now there is expressed demand for provision of such a service,' said Mr Webb.

The licence area plans for Orange and Cobar are expected to be finalised before the middle of this year.

## **ABA invites applications for a new community radio licence in Albany**

ALBANY: The ABA has called for applications for a new community radio broadcasting licence in the Albany area of Western Australia.

'This is the first new community radio broadcasting licence to be offered in Albany under the ABA's new merit-based allocation system,' said Mr Peter Webb, ABA Chairman.

The Broadcasting Services Act says free-to-air community broadcasting service licences must be allocated on the basis of merit. Under this

system, in areas where there is only one applicant for a community broadcasting licence, the ABA need only decide if the applicant merits a licence.

When there is more than one applicant, the ABA may also have to choose on the basis of comparative merit. Alternatively, applicants could combine to present a unified application.

'Allocation of a new community broadcasting licence has begun in Albany as a result of the ABA's public planning process being finalised in this area,' said Mr Webb. 'The planning process decides how much spectrum is available for commercial, community and national (ABC, SBS) broadcasting purposes. Licences are being offered because the planning process identified a demand for a new community service that is operated by people living in the Albany community,' he said.

Prospective applicants should obtain a copy of the free information booklet, *Allocation of Community Broadcasting Licences (Broadcasting Services Bands)*. The booklet also contains the application form, Form ABA 32, *Application for the Allocation of a Community Broadcasting Licence (Broadcasting Services Bands)*. For copies of the booklet and information about how to apply for a community broadcasting licence, call the ABA's Allocation and Renewal section on (02) 9334 7700.

Applications for the licences must be received before 5.00 p.m. on Friday 23 May 1997.

## **ABA invites applications for open narrowcasting licences across Australia**

SYDNEY: On 1 April the ABA invited applications for 21 transmitter licences for open narrowcasting radio services to serve regional areas in New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

The ABA also called for applications for one new open narrowcasting television service for Broome, WA.

For a full list of the areas in which applications for licences are invited, see table. The licences will be issued under the ABA's price-based allocation system. The ABA has set a reserve price of \$4000 for each of the licences. Applicants for the licences must also pay a non-refundable application fee of \$500 for each licence they apply for. Applications for the licences closed on Wednesday 30 April 1997.

For more information please call Leanne Smith on (02) 9334 7824.